

# REPORT (PART II)

## ON

# NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

### FOR THE

## Week ending Saturday, 27th September 1902.

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## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

1310. Adverting to Captain Mahan's article in the *National Review*, the *Bengalee* does not think that the acquisition by Russia or by any other Continental Power of a naval base in Persia would affect the security of India, but it would certainly most injuriously affect British as well as Indian commerce in Persia, and this is a consummation which no British Cabinet could contemplate with complacency. There is hardly anything which John Bull is not prepared to do in order to preserve and extend his commerce whereby he has put a girdle round the globe, but why drag in the question of the security of India? If Russia really wished to attack India, she could, the journal should fancy, do so without having a naval base in the Persian Gulf.

BENGALIE,  
22nd Sept. 1902.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

1311. Continuing its remarks on the suggestion made by some of the members of the Provincial Service, that at each thana there should be some sort of Police Bar that would be present at every investigation and would help the thana officer with its assistance, just as the Deputy Magistrate, the District Magistrate, the Sessions Judge and even the High Court Judges receive and value the assistance of a trained Bar, the *Hindoo Patriot* presses the subject on the consideration of the Police Commission and the Government. Such a safeguard as this scheme outlines is undoubtedly necessary.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
13th Sept. 1902.

1312. The *Weekly Chronicle* (Assam) maintains that the superior officers of the police must be able to act as a check on the mischievous practices of the subordinate staff, and for this reason they must be men experienced in the ways and manners of the country; in other words, Indians of high educational attainments would be fitting substitutes for Europeans as Superintendents of Police.

WEEKLY CHRONICLE,  
16th Sept. 1902.

The policy of appointing only Europeans as Superintendents of Police is, therefore, a scandal of the Indian administration and directly in contravention of both the letter and spirit of the Queen's Proclamation, and so long as that policy endures it will not be possible to improve the efficiency of the police. It is absurd, says the *Chronicle*, to suppose that the subordinate ranks who have ever been steeped in vice and corruption will suddenly become honest because their salaries have been raised or because they have been leavened with a few recruits from the University.

It is suspected that the net result of the Police Commission will be the brightening up of the pay and prospects of the superior police officers who for the most part of their service cannot at present make both ends meet.

1313. The *Hindoo Patriot* adverts to its suggestions regarding the constitution of a "Police Bar" which, it says, will come reasonably within the purview of the Police Commission, and recommends that the idea be considered and developed. It also expresses the opinion that if the police is to be improved, it is necessary to make petty thefts non-cognisable. Section 379 of the Indian Penal Code brings the police and the people into close contact on the slightest imaginable provocation and is more mischievous than the whole of the Penal Code put together. This great and trying temptation must be removed from the way of the police, for such cases are known in police circles as money-making cases, and subordinate police officers would be more than human if they did not improve upon the opportunities thus afforded them by the law. The altered state of society calls for the change advocated.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
18th Sept. 1902.

1314. The *Bengalee* quotes from the judgment of the Magistrate of Hissar in a dacoity case, that in his opinion the police had deliberately sought to implicate innocent persons to cover their failure in tracing the real offenders. But though their exposure has been so complete, the journal is doubtful if they will be awarded any punishment at all for the day's work. Perhaps the Government think if

BENGALIE,  
18th Sept. 1902.

police officers were to be punished for such malpractices, very few of them would be left unpunished.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
19th Sept. 1902.

European Police Superintendents and the Subordinate Magistracy.

1315. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* relates that in a "neighbouring district," a constable brought a false charge against a woman of having dragged him for over a mile. The trying Deputy Magistrate in acquitting the woman, recommended the constable's dismissal from the force, and accordingly the District Superintendent of Police was asked to state what punishment, in his opinion, ought to be meted out to the man. To the surprise of all, the District Superintendent submitted a long defence of the constable.

Thus it is that Superintendents of Police seek to interfere with the decisions of Deputy Magistrates and support the wrong-doers under them.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
21st Sept. 1902.

1316. Considering the way Commissions generally do their work, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that the Indians do not expect much good from the one which has been

The Police Commission.

appointed for reforming the police administration. The general impression is that one of the objects of the Police Commission is to create new berths for Europeans in the Police Department by increasing the salaries of Police Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors. The *Patrika* hopes the Commission will show by their recommendations that there is no foundation in fact for entertaining such a notion. Another impression is that the post of the District Superintendent would be closed for ever against the Indians.

BENGALIEE,  
21st Sept. 1902.

1317. The *Bengalee* regards the article in the *Morning Post* on Indian Police Reform as displaying little knowledge or insight, and observes that if the Police Commission recommend an increase in the salaries of

The *Morning Post* on Indian Police Reform.

Constables and Sub-Inspectors, their recommendation must be given effect to, regardless of financial considerations. No extra taxation will be necessary for this purpose, if the resources of the State are properly husbanded:—

"But up to this time, His Excellency has not taken a single step to reduce unnecessary expenditure, save and except his circular, directing the reduction of the sizes of official reports and returns. Yet our public services offer unlimited scope for the application of the scissors of retrenchment. We, therefore, submit that it would not do to defer Police Reform on financial considerations. No reform can be had without expense, and we venture to think that any expenditure which may be found necessary in order to improve the Police will not be grudged by the country, provided that it is applied in the right direction."

(b)—Working of the Courts.

BENGALIEE,  
19th Sept. 1902.

1318. In its second notice of the Sealdah Contempt of Court case, the *Bengalee* makes the following remarks regarding

Maulvi Buzlal Karim, Sub-divisional Officer of Sealdah.

Maulvi Buzlal Karim:—

Maulvi Buzlal Karim has distinguished himself before now. Mental equilibrium and a judicial equanimity of temper are impossible in a man like him. He has an idea that it is inconsistent with the dignity which hedges round a Magistrate and specially a Subdivisional Magistrate from the common herd, to be suave or polite to those who appear in his Court. And so he never misses saying something disagreeable or rude whenever an opportunity presents itself for so doing. There have been innumerable complaints against this Maulvi. But Government has always thought fit to take no notice of the complaints so universally made against him.

BENGALIEE,  
21st Sept. 1902.

1319. Continuing its observations on this officer's service in Sealdah, the same paper calls on Mr. Stevenson-Moore, in view of what has occurred, to take up the Maulvi's case

*Ibid.*

now and transfer him from Sealdah.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
21st Sept. 1902.

1320. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* reverts to the case of Asamuddi, whose appeal against the sentence of death passed on him

Mr. Vas, Joint-Magistrate of Comilla.

by the Sessions Judge of Tippera, was successful in the High Court, and exhorts the Government to send for the records of the case, as the conduct of Mr. Vas, Joint-Magistrate

of Comilla, in altering a portion of the certificate as to confession and which was strongly commented upon by the High Court, calls for serious notice.

It proceeds to expose another case in which the same Joint-Magistrate sentenced an old man of 69 to 15 months' rigorous imprisonment for the criminal misappropriation of Rs. 13 and compares the sentence passed to that in the case of Mr. Ross.

1321. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* publishes the judgment of the Cantonment Magistrate of Cawnpore, convicting a respectable and wealthy Indian house-owner of theft

A Cawnpore case.

in regard to some mangoes which he claimed as his own but which his European tenant disputed, remarking:—

We hope to comment upon it when we have secured all the papers in the case. In the meantime, the best advice we can offer to Indian house-owners in Cantonments is either to sell their houses or pull them down. For, one criminal case is enough not only to beggar them, but also make them run the risk of losing their lives. It was by a mere chance that Babu Someshwar escaped imprisonment. But, if he had been only one month in jail, it is very doubtful whether he would have returned alive.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
21st Sept. 1902.

(d)—Education.

1322. Referring to the appointment of teachers in zilla schools and to such teacherships being reserved exclusively for Muhammadans, the *East* says:—

Appointment of junior teachers.

In disposing of a vacancy in the teaching line where a good knowledge of English and Mathematics is indispensably necessary, an ordinary Muhammadan undergraduate should not be preferred to a Hindu B.A., as otherwise, we are afraid, efficient teaching in zilla schools will be impaired to a great extent.

1323. The *Behar Herald* says that of all the proposals of the Universities Commission, none is more dangerous in principle, more injurious in practice, than that of raising the tuition-fees in such a way as not to tempt a poor

The Universities Commission's Report.

student of ordinary abilities to seek high education which is not to his interest. It believes that people have as much right to impart education to the ignorant masses, either with or without cost, as they have to distribute food gratis amongst the famine-stricken. Such a mischievous recommendation, it urges, should be repudiated with the strongest censure—as wrong in principle and repugnant to every sense of justice and fairness.

EAST,  
13th Sept. 1902.

BEHAR HERALD,  
13th Sept. 1902.

1324. Continuing its observations on this subject, *Power and Guardian*

The Universities Commission's Report.

says that with the growing paucity of competent men, as a result of the confinement of higher education to a limited number of students, the Government will gradually find it difficult to secure tolerably competent men to undertake administrative works.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,  
14th Sept. 1902.

The recommendations of the Commission would also gradually reduce the number of graduate clerks and the advantages which the mercantile community are now deriving by their appointment are sure to vanish, so, in the journal's opinion, it is quite evident that from all practical points of view the recommendations are worse than useless and impracticable.

As to the selection of books, the journal has no doubt as to the motive which is likely to influence the official element in the choice of books and would not be surprised to see Sanskrit books imported from England for the education of Indian students.

1325. The *Indian Nation* suspects that the recommendations of the Universities Commission to raise the pay and status of teachers of Sanskrit, mean the banishment

Sanskrit Pandits.

of the Pandits and the introduction of the anglicised Indian scholars or European orientalists. The former are described as masters of their subjects, and the only matters in which they may be inferior to the anglicised scholars are antiquarian speculations, philology, comparative religion and philosophy. But in respect of the B. A. Course only Sanskrit grammar and literature are taught, and for these no western training is wanted. The journal holds that

INDIAN NATION,  
15th Sept. 1902.

it were better for students to have a thorough mastery of the eastern system than a half-knowledge of the eastern and western systems, and that the Commission would have acted wisely in abstaining from recommendations on a subject of which apparently they had had little or no first-hand knowledge.

The *Nation* is, however, pleased to get from the Commission the admission that the same training entitles men to the same status and pay. Pandits are often content to receive a smaller pay than others of less training, because their wants are fewer and the *Shastras* regard it as a sin to teach for money. If competent men can be had on a small salary, there is no reason why a large salary should be thrust on them. Government never exhibits its appreciation in that way.

On the contrary, it perpetrates the injustice of paying on two different scales men similarly trained and having similar habits of life, where they belong, by reason of nationality, to the two different branches of educational service.

It passes on to another recommendation of the Commission, viz., that Roman History should not be made a necessary subject for a Law Degree, and expresses the view that without a fair acquaintance with it, it is not possible to appreciate fully books on jurisprudence, &c., and there should be no objection to prescribing English books on the subject.

AMRITA BAZAR,  
PATRIKA,  
16th Sept. 1902.

1326. Referring to the paragraph in the *Pioneer* that there is no likelihood of the Government of India hurrying their decision on the recommendations of the Universities Commission, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that the recommendations of the Commission will require very close attention from the Government, and it is, therefore, glad to learn that no hasty step will be taken in this connection. It recommends its countrymen, however, not to cease to protest. Indeed, unless they carry on a systematic, sustained and well-concerted agitation, their voice will not be able to make any impression upon the Government.

BENGALUR,  
17th Sept. 1902.

1327. Referring to the recent meeting of Muhammadans of Calcutta to consider the report of the Commission the *Bengalee* remarks that the members of this community are taking an active part in the agitation in connection with the report of the Universities Commission, and that in this matter, Hindus and Muhammadans are united to a man in a common protest.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
17th Sept. 1902.

1328. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* publishes, in its leading article, the letter of its London correspondent on the recommendations of the Universities Commission, which he says have been returned to India, that the views of the people might be taken on them. The *Patrika* says that its correspondent has done a great public service by his reassuring letter.

BEHAR HERALD,  
17th Sept. 1902.

1329. The *Behar Herald* describes the meeting held in Bankipore to consider the recommendations of the Universities Commission as peculiar and unique, inasmuch as many officers of the Education Department under Government service took part in it. Mr. James, Professor, Patna College, in his speech, could not but admit that his worst fears were confirmed as regards certain of the recommendations, but the *Herald* is disappointed that Mr. James did not think it fit to go into the details of the points in which he differs from the Commission.

BENGALUR,  
18th Sept. 1902.

It gives credit to Babu Jadu Nath Sircar, another Professor of the College, for protesting against some of the reactionary recommendations, especially in regard to the raising of the College fees, with a view to excluding the poorer classes from embarking on University education. In India, he pointed out, it was the poorer, not the richer, classes who showed any desire for education, and he emphasised the fact that the Scotch Universities imparted education at the cheapest possible rate, and yet no one would say that such education was unsound.

1330. The *Bengalee* asks that due consideration be given to Dr. Morrison's suggestion that if the proposals of the Commission are accepted, the Entrance standard should qualify for admission to the Medical and the Engineering Colleges, and the F. A. to the Law classes. The proposal seems to the journal

Dr. Morrison and the Universities Commission.

to be reasonable in the event of the recommendations of the Commission being accepted. But it trusts the standard will not undergo a sudden rise. There ought to be a gradual raising of the standard. The Oriental mind is predisposed against all sudden and sweeping changes. "Reform we welcome; revolution we abhor."

1331. The *Hindoo Patriot* is of opinion that before the Resolution of the Home Department which the *Englishman* announces is soon to issue on the subject of the Universities Commission's Report, there ought to be another public meeting held in Calcutta as soon as the Viceroy returns. Meanwhile, the teachers and professors' meeting should not be delayed. It calls on such educationists as Babu Surendra Nath Banerji, Mr. N. N. Ghose and Mr. G. C. Bose to meet and go into the matter thoroughly in detail, record their views and submit them to Government.

It also presses for the compilation of the proceedings of all these protest meetings and their publication in convenient book form for the convenience of the public and the Government.

1332. With reference to the disposition of the Government not to take any hurried action on the recommendations of the Universities Commission, the *Amrita Bozar Patrika* exhorts other provinces to agitate and assures the authorities that "if they meddle with 'dear education,' it will convulse India more powerfully than even the abominable Age of Consent measure did. Our rulers are astute men. But was it wise on their part to throw the nation into a state of despair just when it was making the grandest preparation for a Coronation Darbar and a display of Indian loyalty."

1333. The *Indian Mirror* asks its readers not to attach much importance to the announcement of the *Englishman* that a Resolution is being prepared in the Home Department on the Report of the Universities Commission, since that authority cannot or will not indicate the nature of the Resolution in question. Similarly, the *Mirror* does not attach much weight to the report that differences of opinion have arisen between the Government of India and the Secretary of State about the future educational policy to be adopted and pursued in India. What strikes it is that the Government of India is in much too great a hurry to write its Resolution. Why can it not wait till a full expression of Indian opinion from all parts of the country has been elicited? There is nothing to be lost by waiting; on the contrary, much profit may accrue to Government and the people. No recent measure has more agitated the people as this one proposed to be based on the representations of the Universities' Commission. Old and young, rich and poor, have alike become alarmed and discontented. Under these circumstances, the highest wisdom is to take time before Government commits itself to any particular line of educational policy. It may be that Lord Curzon may yet disarm the suspicions and fears of the people. But no evidence in that regard has been yet forthcoming.

1334. The *Indian Nation* quotes Sir Henry Maine, Mr. Trevelyan and Sir James Stephen on the general incompetence of Civilians as lawyers, particularly in comparison to legal practitioners in this country and then passes to the consideration of the conditions of admission into the legal profession in India and those in England. The former, it points out, are immensely more difficult than the latter.

"Do the purposes of reform, do the comparative circumstances of the two countries, require that they should be made more difficult? If no difficulty of tests is enough to keep out the Bengali the conditions of admission are made expensive. A man to be enrolled as a Vakil or as an Advocate must pay a fee of Rs. 500. What has a Barrister to pay in England to be enrolled as an Advocate entitled to practise in any Court? Only half-a-crown. In India, candidates for the B. L. must not only attend lectures, but it is now proposed to raise their fees for attendance, and to reduce the facilities for attendance, at lectures. Is this reason? Is this justice? Is this encouragement of merit? Is it even fair play for merit? And is it in accordance with the

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
19th Sept. 1902.

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INDIAN MIRROR,  
20th Sept. 1902.

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15th Sept. 1902

fitness of things that the Civilian and the Barrister may have an indifferent legal training and easy conditions of admission to the highest ranks of the profession and the Judicial service, and that pleaders and Munsifs should be required to pass immensely more difficult tests, to qualify for a longer period, and submit to conditions at once difficult and unreasonable?"

INDIAN MIRROR,  
21st Sept. 1902.

1335. The following paragraph appears in the *Indian Mirror* :—

Mr. T. Raleigh as Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University.

It is well that, in the absence of a "native" gentleman, Mr. T. Raleigh should be again nominated Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University. There will be differences of opinion as to the part played by the illustrious member of the Viceroy's Council in the Universities' Commission. But there is no division of opinion whatever about his fitness—proved fitness—for the office of the Vice-Chancellor of the University.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
18th Sept. 1902.

1336. The *Hindoo Patriot* reiterates its complaint against the frequency

Street accidents in Calcutta.

of tram-car accidents, due to the reckless driving and the negligence of tramway employes, and wonders when the authorities will wake up to a sense of the dangers that threaten the public. It again draws attention to the manner in which the monster ladders are left to lie about street corners without any lights to warn pedestrians and carriages.

BENGALIEE,  
18th Sept. 1902.

1337. The *Bengalee* says that it has for some time past been carefully

Local Self-Government in Bengal and Bihar.

studying the results of the general elections of the Local Boards that have recently been held in Bengal and Bihar, and although conditions vary in different places, it feels bound to say that they are very disappointing to the public. Old familiar names, which have long been associated with Local Self-Government in these provinces, are not to be found, their places being usurped by Subdivisional Magistrates and others quite unknown. Especially is this so in East Bengal, where the results would appear to suggest that a most comprehensive and successful plan has been laid down for the practical effacement of Local Self-Government. The recognised leaders and representatives of the people have been bodily eclipsed and a galaxy of nonentities put up in their place—members of the legal profession in particular, who have been quietly removed from the Jury List and from Honorary Magistracies, now receive their *coup de grace*.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
19th Sept. 1902.

1338. The *Hindoo Patriot* again reverting to this theme, points out that

Increase in assessment.

in the revision of assessment in Ward No. 3, houses have been assessed in some cases double the last assessment figures, and in rare instances indeed is the figure less than 30 to 50 per cent. in excess of the previous one.

It goes on to reiterate its complaint of the actual and the reasonable basis on which these assessments are made, and cries for a uniformity of standard.

It desires to draw special attention to the hardships attending that class of cases in which a rented house is not assessed at what the lessee pays, but at what his sublessee gets or may be expected to get.

BENGALIEE,  
20th Sept. 1902.

1339. While it cannot accuse the Government or the Municipality of

Electric installation in Calcutta.

being blind to the threatened danger of overhead wires to the public safety, the *Bengalee* says it is constrained to think that, in view of the serious character of the danger that menaces the Calcutta public, neither the Government nor the Municipality evinces a due and laudable amount of activity in averting the danger. Matters, apparently, are handled in a leisurely sort of way, as if both Government and the Municipality are anxious lest vested interests should be jeopardised. It cannot too strongly condemn the action of both the bodies for their want of promptitude and alacrity.

(g) — *Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

1340. The *Benjalee* complains that the exclusion of Indians from the Superior Traffic Department of Indian Railways has not received the measure of attention it deserves, and calls attention to the memorandum issued for the selection and training of young subordinates, wherein it is stated that, as far as possible, they should be young Europeans or Anglo-Indians. It calls on Lord Curzon to answer whether the Queen's Proclamation, the golden rule of conduct, is to be respected in this way.

The Superior Traffic Department of Indian Railways.

BENGALÉE,  
20th Sept. 1902.

(h) — *General.*

1341. In the opinion of the *East*, it was unique in the British administration of India for a Viceroy to take note of what is said by the Press in this country either for or against Government measures, and it cannot be too thankful to Lord Curzon for this marked departure in the administrative policy, which cannot fail to contribute to the growth of healthy relations between the governors and the governed.

The Viceroy on the Delhi Darbar.

EAST,  
13th Sept. 1902.

1342. Lord Curzon's speech in the Supreme Legislative Council at Simla, on the 5th September, was, says *Reis and Rayyet*, like all his speeches, felicitous and brilliant. It was a perfect vindication of his policy, as far as it could be, regarding the coming Coronation Assemblage at Delhi. Lord Curzon is evidently a reader of all classes of Indian newspapers, Native or Anglo-Indian, as he must be of English. He values public criticism, though he loses no opportunity to correct it when it differs from his own views. At the same time, it is impossible not to notice the determined tone of the speech. Lord Curzon's plans had long been formed and they are hastening towards maturity. No dissentient voice, however strongly expressed, will shake the Viceregal resolve or produce any impression upon Lord Curzon. The imposing pageantry of New Year's Day, 1903, is slowly revealing itself, and its complete revelation is a mere question of time. Such being the state of things, it were idle enough to try to dissuade him from his magnificent scheme of Imperialism. It is wise perhaps to make the best of his Delhi Darbar.

Lord Curzon and the Coronation Darbar.

REIS AND RAYYET,  
13th Sept. 1902.

1343. The following is taken from the *Indian Mirror* :—  
Lord Curzon's imagination runs riot with mutiny memorials. His latest freak in this respect is the contemplated invitation to "mutiny veterans" to be the guests of Government at the Delhi Darbar. Now, Delhi is full of associations, sad and glad, connected with the mutiny and the wiping out of a great reigning dynasty. We scarcely think it to be wise that those associations should be rethrust upon the memory of the inhabitants of the capital of the late Mogal Empire.

Lord Curzon and the "Mutiny veterans."

INDIAN MIRROR,  
14th Sept. 1902.

1344. Commenting on the *Englishman's* statement in justification of the Coronation Darbar, that the ceremony will cause a great circulation of money from the hands of the rich into those of the poor, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* observes that beyond a few thousand coolies and a few hundred artisans, the Indian poor will not benefit in the least by the circulation of the money. On the other hand, some two crores of rupees or more, which are now in the possession of the Princes and the Rajahs—or, of rather their creditors—for the majority of them are not in a better position than the Deccan raiyat and will have to run into fresh debts to meet the expenses of attending the Darbar—will be drained out of this country and will find their way into the pockets of foreigners.

The circulation of money at the Delhi Darbar.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
14th Sept. 1902.

1345. Adverting to the feeling created by the omission to invite several important Indian newspapers to the Coronation Darbar, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* points out that the Government is too poor to be able to invite the representatives of about 1,000 newspapers. Hence the majority of them have been excluded.

The Indian newspapers and the Delhi Darbar.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
14th Sept. 1902.

The public, however, will gain, it says, by this exclusiveness in invitations. The Darbar has features which have to be examined critically. Many of those who have been invited may not think it in good taste to offer any adverse criticism upon the Darbar arrangements. But those who have been excluded will not be restrained by any such consideration to say their say with fearless independence.

INDIAN NATION,  
15th Sept. 1902

1346. The *Indian Nation*, resuming its criticism of the Viceroy's speech, says

The Viceroy on the Delhi Darbar. that it is unable to wholly agree with His Excellency that such a function as the Coronation Darbar will give opportunities to men to know each other or

to the rulers to know *the mind of the people*. No Viceroy has travelled more widely or more often than Lord Curzon. But even he will fail to know the mind of the people or the real working of the Government if he reaches the people or they reach him only through officials, and if he takes servile, soulless, self-seeking members of the wealthy and titled classes to be the real representatives of the people or the interpreters of their wants. The Darbar will be a capital opportunity for mutual knowledge if visitors have opportunities enough for free, familiar and private intercourse. The opportunity will be infructuous if it comes to be a succession of mere ceremonies, of forms and shows, of formal gatherings where only courtesies can be exchanged, pleasures enjoyed, and conventional inanities talked. In the same way as His Excellency has justified the Coronation Darbar, the *Nation* says it lives in constant fear that some day His Excellency's great literary skill will be employed in defending every appointment made, every honour conferred by Government, Local or Imperial. It says it should be sorry to see grace and force employed in defence of things that should not be. Where a man is honoured on no other ground than his munificent support of an official project, Government is discredited and the title dragged through the mire. Talents, independence, meritorious service are entitled to honour, not servility, canvassing or interested liberality. If to maintain traditions or only for some worldly reason, a self-seeking loyalty or calculating munificence is to be rewarded, let the fact be plainly acknowledged as an evil, albeit of the necessary sort. But let no attempt be made to justify the procedure. Not the most perfect logic or rhetoric will whitewash this black spot. It has to be got rid of, not defended. It says it is sick of the abuse of patronage; of the degradation of honours.

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15th Sept. 1902.

1347. The *Bengalee* again ventilates the grievances of the amlas of the

Civil Court amlas of Howrah.

Howrah Civil Courts who do not know what it is to enjoy a holiday and are ordinarily required to work far into the night. It expresses the fear that it is not safe to trust these ill-paid officers to take home, as they often do, valuable documents which can be destroyed or altered for the sake of a few rupees; nor is it safe, in its opinion, to keep any artificial light in the record-room.

It concludes by appealing to Lord Curzon to befriend this class of ministerial officers.

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PATRIKA  
15th Sept. 1902.

1348. That the Viceroy has thought it necessary to issue an executive order

"Rejoicing during the Coronation" that there should be rejoicings during the Coronation, proves, says the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, the fact that there is something in India which has the effect of freezing the free flow of genuine loyalty, and that the rulers know it. One of these impediments to the display of loyal feeling is the administration of justice. It is undoubtedly true that the good and pure intention of the rulers to dispense justice is there; but, unfortunately, for one reason or another, the people do not get as much justice as they deserve. Take, for instance, says the *Patrika*, the case of the Musalaman, Babu Mandal, of Rajshahi, who sought redress from the Magistrate of the district in a petition in which he complained that his *nika* wife had been enticed away. The Magistrate dismissed the petition on the ground that *nika* was not a legal marriage. On appeal, however, the District and Sessions Judge held that such a marriage was quite legal, and remanded the case for further enquiry.

"That being so, how was it that one, who was dispensing criminal justice of a district of two millions, was so ignorant of a matter known to every native of India? The answer to this question, of course, is that the Magistrate is ignorant of such an ordinary matter, because he is a foreigner. Well, if

he is a foreigner, why is he allowed to administer justice, which it is impossible for foreigners, ignorant of the language, manners and customs of the country, to do? Why should foreigners be entrusted in India with a work, which relates to the liberty, honour and life of the subjects?

If Englishmen are required to administer the affairs of this country, they should at least know the country thoroughly, but as this is not found practicable, it is sought to get over the difficulty by requiring the native to learn the language of the officials.

1349. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* takes it for granted that the object of importing plague doctors is simply to provide some berths for Europeans, as it cannot be contended

English plague doctors.

that entrusting plague inoculations to Indians will give rise to political danger. Perhaps, the journal reflects, the Government has been moved to appoint Europeans with a view to keep the Indians out of harm's way, plague inoculations being dangerous!

It asks, in this connection, whether the English Doctors who are coming out, will be armed with revolvers as was the case three or four years ago.

1350. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* calls attention to the sufferings of the people of Backergunge by the disarmament measure. Deprived of the means of defence, they

Affairs in Backergunge.

are at the mercy of the wild animals that infest the district and destroy their crops. In addition to this, the journal says that the people are being subjected to a sort of criminal administration which is killing in its effect by the operation of sections 154 and 155, Indian Penal Code, and sections 107 and 110, Criminal Procedure Code. The former sections are being enforced with unprecedented vigour, and every landowner in the district is in a state of terrible anxiety as to when it will be his turn to be hauled up for crime of which he has no knowledge committed in his zamindari. Under the latter sections (known as the *badmashi* sections), almost any poor wretch can be dubbed a *badmash* and kept in jail for three years. The journal trusts that Government will satisfy itself by an independent enquiry whether or not the time has come for the termination of the barbarous system of administering the affairs of Backergunge.

1351. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* recommends the Indians to follow in the wake of the Ceylonese and bring every case of miscarriage of justice to the notice of the Government, "when any occurs through the perversity or stupidity of European jurors."

Perverse verdicts.

ernment, "when any occurs through the perversity or stupidity of European jurors."

1352. The *Indian Mirror* asks that the Sub-Registrar at Uluberia having been promoted to a Special Sub-Registrarship, a Sub-Registry office might now be opened at Bagnan thana in the Howrah district, the people

Wanted a Sub-Registry office at Bagnan.

of which have to go to Uluberia to get their deeds registered much to their inconvenience, trouble and expense.

1353. Notwithstanding the Viceroy's action in reducing the number of elected Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality from two-thirds to half and his ingenuity

Lord Curzon found out.

in making the measure more illiberal than it already was, the *Bengalee* says that still the Indian people and the Indian Press had not lost all faith in Lord Curzon whose action they considered was due more to inexperience or perhaps unwise counsel than to anything else:—

"But, their forbearance was, it now appears, misplaced. We now find Lord Curzon in his true colours. His delight is to snub and sneer at the educated leaders of the Indian people, to ridicule their claims and to throw cold water upon their fondest aspirations. His Excellency doubtless has a vague and undefinable sort of love for India. But this love which occasionally impels him to make theatrical displays by tongue and pen does not induce in his heart anything like sympathy with the educated Indian community. His predecessors had tolerated the educated Indian as a harmless, though at times a disagreeable nuisance. He would go one better. He would crush the creature if he could. He would narrow the circle of education. He would reduce the number of lawyers who are in the vanguard of all public movements in the country. He would insult the Political

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Associations in the land. He would not even spare the Feudatory Chiefs, to talk of another sphere of Indian life, and make them momentarily feel that the Viceregal arm is long enough to reach them even from Simla. Like all imperious souls he cannot brook dissent, as more than one of his Lieutenants have already found out to their cost. He is first and the rest nowhere, and woe betide the grey-headed veteran who fails to grasp this—the cardinal principle of the present administration. All this shows that the Viceroy is a strong man, and what is more, that His Excellency knows his strength and means to use it for the benefit of all concerned. The educated Indians are surely no match for this incomparable Triton among minnows. A strong ruler is a blessing, if he is well-directed. But a strong ruler, bent upon reactionary policy and consumed by inconceivable conceit, is perhaps the most grievous affliction which can befall India at the present time. In future, we shall pray to be saved from a strong man. In India, a kind-heart and a sound head are needed rather than strength of the Herculean order. Under the present regime, the country is under feverish suspense and no one can say what the morrow will bring forth."

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22nd Sept. 1902.

1354. The *Bengalee* ventilates the unredressed grievances of the Indian signallers of the Telegraph Department as follows:—

The unredressed grievances of Indian signallers.

The General Service continues to be the monopoly of Europeans and Eurasians and no facilities are proposed for the larger employment of Indians in that branch of the Service. The grievance relating to house-accommodation and house-rent remains unmodified. Eurasian and European signallers are provided with house accommodation, or rent in lieu thereof. Native Indian signallers do not enjoy this privilege. It is disappointing, says the journal, that this distinction should not have been removed when the reorganization of the establishment took place under the orders of Government.

### III.—LEGISLATION.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
17th Sept. 1902.

1355. The *Hindoo Patriot* points out that section 110, Criminal Procedure

Code, which requires security for good behaviour from habitual offenders, operates harshly and

oppressively upon a certain section of the public in the distant mufassal who may not be distinguished for law-abiding qualities, but who all the same have not forfeited all claim to legal protection. Not more than 5 per cent. of such persons required to find and give security can and do give such security and the remainder go to jail. The reason for this, it is suggested, lies in the absence from section 110 of the safeguard provided in section 106, viz., that the bond shall be *proportionate to the means*. When it is remembered that the same police who bring these cases to the notice of the Magistrate, and upon whose information and at whose instance the law is put in motion are deputed by the Magistrate to enquire into and report upon the fitness of the surety, is it any wonder that these enquiries and reports lead to rejection of sureties, and the inordinate filling up of jails? These people go to jail simply because the police want them to go to jail. When they entertain this desire, it is unfortunately not difficult to bring the Magistracy into the requisite frame of mind.

The journal is glad to learn that the Government is interesting itself in the matter, and is of opinion that it will find, as the result of its enquiries, that these sections are no longer used for the prevention of crimes as used to be the case. They are one more engine of punishment provided by the amended Code which is yielding its inevitable crop of evil.

### IV —NATIVE STATES.

BENGALER,  
19th Sept. 1902.

1356. With reference to the official *Communique* on the subject of the

appointment of the sons of a few Indian Chiefs as Pages to the Viceroy, the *Bengalee* is afraid

that the official explanation on the subject is altogether beside the point. "No one has ever questioned that the position of a Page is one of great honour, but our contention is that in a matter of this kind Indian ideas are

very different from English ideas, and that unless we are gravely mistaken, no Indian Chief will consider himself or his House honoured by being asked to act as a Page even to the Viceroy or to allow any of his sons to do so. Of course, if a Chief is asked to do so, he may not dare meet a request coming from the Viceroy with a point-blank refusal, but, all the same, he will not be flattered by being selected to play such a role."

1357. With reference to this subject, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that the Government itself is always courteous, but the policy of some politicals lies in humiliating the Indian Princes as Pages. Princes in their charge, and this has made them naturally very sensitive. The kindest intention of the Government is liable to be misunderstood and misinterpreted for this reason. There is no doubt that the Princes, who will act as Pages, run the risk of being lowered rather than elevated in the estimation of their countrymen. Why should the Viceroy, it asks, have a train at all? Without meaning any disrespect it submits that there is some difference between a sovereign and his representative.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
20th Sept. 1902.

1358. Referring to the *Pioneer's* article that, owing to the number of Indian Ruling Chiefs who are to assemble in Delhi, it will not be possible for the Viceroy to find time to receive or return their visits, the *Indian Mirror*

INDIAN MIRROR,  
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says:—

Lord Lytton had to render the courtesy to a still greater number of Chiefs—he was a much older man than Lord Curzon—how did he manage the function? We repeat that these official excuses are all unconvincing.

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

1359. In view of the acute distress caused by the recent heavy floods in Nalhati, in the Birbhum district, the *Bengalee* urges the Government to continue relief for at least a month, otherwise numberless persons will fall victims by sheer starvation.

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22nd Sept. 1902.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

1360. The *Hindoo Patriot* continuing its defence of Indian journalism, says that much of the weaknesses and errors pointed out by Lord Curzon in his Convocation speech could, with advantage, be addressed to members of the Anglo-Indian Press as well as the Press in England. It reminds His Excellency that the Press in India does not represent to some extent the thoughts of the educated minority, but they convey to the fullest extent what the educated community thinks. There is no occasion for that community to have "one word in the mouth and another down the stomach" as the Bengali proverb has it.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
16th Sept. 1902.

The Press, however, as a matter of fact, represents something more than the views of the "educated minority to some extent." It represents public and popular opinion and wishes as a whole and has immense educational value, the sphere of the influence of which is daily expanding. It has far higher functions than of conveying to the Viceroy things that he should otherwise never hear of at all. It is the recognised and accredited interpreter between the ruler and the ruled—a function that it is not called upon to discharge in free countries like England. It has immense Governmental influence that Government proper is unfortunately slow to recognise, and this is the real key of its power. It is the interest of the Government just as much as it is the interest of the people that the Press in a country like India should expand and develop and at the same time be purged of all "errors and weaknesses." To this end the members of the Press and as well as the Government should address themselves, if this undoubted power is ever to be exercised for good. The Press is not the enemy or detractor of Government. It is its best and closest friend and it has to be cherished, supported and appreciated accordingly. This unfortunately is exactly what is not being done.

BENGALUR,  
19th Sept. 1902.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
20th Sept 1902.

1361. The *Bengalee* is glad that the preparations for the next Congress are making satisfactory progress, and that in spite of rumours to the contrary success of the Ahmedabad Congress will be equal to that of the greatest Congresses in the past.

1362. The following is taken from the *Indian Mirror* :—

The slaughter of animals. The horror, the abomination of it! Fancy an "enormous Meat Trust," with a hundred millions sterling capital, in Chicago. Mr. Armour engineers this Trust. We do not care to pursue the enquiry. But we are shocked at the impending slaughter of billions and trillions of harmless cattle to give a fair return for the investors in this monstrous, unblushing Trust! God who cares for the life of the tiniest sparrow, will take sure vengeance on the human fiends, who kill God's handiwork out of existence. How long, oh Lord! how long must this injustice, these murders, prevail?

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL  
OF POLICE, L. P.,

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,

The 27th September 1902.

H. B. ST. LEGER,

Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.